**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held**

**on 10th January 2022 via Zoom**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair) Wendy Ferguson Jill Hyslop

Eleanor Hulme Rita Buchan Dave Griffiths

Richard Austin

**In Attendance** Councillor Shamin Akhtar Councillor Tom Trotter Councillor John McMillan Hugh Broad Derek Cunningham Jane Hare

**Apologies** PC Colin Boyd Councillor Craig Hoy Andrew Hamilton

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting of the 13th December (approved by Richard Austin and Eleanor Hulme).

**2. Matters Arising**

2.1Road Safety. Adam received a message from Alan Stubbs to say that the survey work has not been done yet, but it is on the list of things to do. Alan emphasized that Road Services have had to review their works programme due to Covid. Alan passed on details of some staff changes: Peter Forsyth has moved to a new role and his replacement Ian Lennock and his team will be involved in the work at Gifford. Once the initial survey work has been completed, Ian or Marshall will be in touch to provide an update and to discuss some of the other Roads related matters (see 2.3 Traffic Calming and 4.1 Yester Quarry Road).

2.2 Additional Graveyard space. Councillor McMillan and Wendy will be meeting over the next fortnight to discuss how to progress the SEPA survey. It has already been agreed that Community Council cannot fund this. **ACTION:JM/WF**

2.3 Traffic Calming

2.3.1 Duns Road. As with 2.1 above, the council has not yet been able to carry out a 2nd survey to assess the effectiveness of the speed cushions. Derek Cunningham, who lives on Duns Road, provided some feedback about the current situation. He didn’t think the speed bumps were slowing traffic down, as many vehicles straddled them. He was also concerned about the noise generated, particularly when larger vehicles go over the cushions. The houses on Duns Road do not have front gardens, so they are very close to the speed cushions. There was a discussion about the speed monitoring signs on the Duns Road and the Edinburgh Road and these were thought to be a useful deterrent. Adam informed the meeting that speeding would be on the Agenda at the next CAPP meeting on 31st January. The agreed action was that Richard would email Marshall (copying in Alan, PC Boyd and Councillor McMillan) to ask for a speed survey. It was acknowledged that there may be a delay in this being carried out due to Covid. **ACTION: RA**

2.3.2 Edinburgh Road. Further work on this will follow on from the results of the surveys at 2.1 and 2.3.1 above.

2.4 Wheelie bins on Main Street pavement. Councillor Akhtar reported that there was no progress due to Covid, but she agreed to follow this up. Waste Services will include the Recycling containers when discussing the matter with residents. **ACTION: SA**

2.5 Defibrillators. Wendy reported that, following discussions with Sam Grieve of the Scottish Ambulance Service, she now had details of the recommended model and had the details of a sales rep. As the defibrillator was to be located at a school, the issue arose as to whether to have a child key. The AED (automated external defibrillator) without the key works from 8yrs and up. It is unusual for an AED of this type to work on a child as it is normally respiratory arrest they go into and therefore CPR is the answer, but if there are children who have a known condition then it is recommended it is purchased. Wendy is liaising with ELC to see if there is a policy for this where a defibrillator is available in other schools. Councillor Akhtar agreed to speak to the Head Teacher at Yester. Wendy had also spoken to Eleanor, who recommended that a paediatric cardiologist should be consulted. Adam informed the meeting that Community Council will need someone to volunteer to monitor the defibrillators and also to arrange training. **ACTION: WF, SA, AW**

2.6. Beautiful Scotland signage. Adam will be submitting an application to the Area Partnership’s February meeting to cover the costs of this. **ACTION: AW**

2.7 Trees (Tweeddale Arms/Witherspoon Plaque/Queen’s Green Canopy). Adam will be talking to Mike Foy about getting a suitable tree to be planted by the Witherspoon plaque. Joe Clark is speaking to Mike Foy about the trees at the Tweeddale. **ACTION: AW**

2.8 School Railings. Councillor Akhtar reported that the Community Payback Team has completed a risk assessment and the work will be done in March (either during the school holidays or at the weekend to avoid children coming into contact with wet paint). The paint and materials will be supplied at a reduced cost and Community Council will be invoiced. Councillor Akhtar will give Wendy an estimate and Wendy will confirm Community Council’s willingness to cover the cost. Councillor Akhtar will keep Dave informed about the date of a site visit. **ACTION: SA/WF**

2.9 Review of Christmas Events. The Christmas Light Switch and the Christmas Post were both very successful. Adam estimated that around 300 cards were posted, with profits going to St Columba’s Hospice. The Christmas Carols had been cancelled due to concerns about the Omicron variant.

2.10 Noticeboards. Dave provided details of a company KBS in Norfolk (<https://kbsdepot.com/>) that has traditional noticeboards. He has highlighted a particular model that is slightly bigger than the current one. It takes 18 A4 pages which would be fully seen, with no blind areas as with the current cabinet. The model is apparently used by a lot of councils. It costs £521.00 + VAT, but if the hall also wanted one, then the unit cost for 2 would be £517.00 + VAT each. It takes around 4 to 6 weeks from time of order to delivery (delivery cost tbc). A second company “Notice Me” (<https://noticeme.org.uk/>) had a similar sized cabinet for £430.00 + VAT. Delivery cost between £15.95 - £22.95. Dave hadn’t spoken to this company. Adam was happy with the approximate cost of £500. It was agreed that community council members should look at the options Dave has suggested and give their comments. Wendy raised the issue of whether the noticeboard was currently in the best location. She suggested that visitors would be more likely to see it if it was positioned by Hoggs newsagent. **ACTION: AW/WF/EH/RB/JH/DG.**

2.11 Dog poo bins in the Bleachfield**.** Andrew Hogarth had contacted Councillor MacMillan to explain that the council has to be able to get a transit style van to within 20m of any proposed bin because of potential manual handling and concerns about sharps. The Bleachfield is very damp at the best of times and they would not be able to access the site in wet weather. Adam understood ELC’s concerns and suggested that we should look for alternative ways of managing the problem, such as additional signs and poo bag dispensers. **ACTION: AW**

2.12 Planting bulbs at the Wynd. Councillor McMillan had asked Andrew Hogarth about this, but had not yet received a reply. He agreed to follow this up. **ACTION: JM**

2.13 Encouraging use of local businesses. Jill had arranged a ‘Shop Local’ message on the Community Council Facebook page just before Xmas. It was agreed that further messages should be published to tie in with particular events throughout the year. In relation to the new NISA store, Councillor Akhtar suggested that it might be beneficial to have a community council liaison person who could help to develop relations between the store and the community. Rita volunteered to take on that role, as she visits the shop a lot and has good relations with the staff. Rita agreed to ask the store what they plan to do about the temporary signage. **ACTION: RB**

2.14 Commercial vehicles parking on the High Street. Rita informed the meeting that the situation had improved since the last meeting.

**3 External Reports**

**3.1 Police**

This report is based on incidents between 12/12/2021 and 07/01/2022. During the period since the last police report there have been very few incidents of note in the Gifford area. There may be more incidents but due to the nature of these or ongoing investigations full details cannot be given.

3.1.1 On 23/12/21 officers stopped a male in Gifford and found him to have around £100 worth of cannabis. Issued a recorded police warning.

3.1.2 There have been reports of vehicles continuing to speed through the village. Local officers will continue to monitor this and take action when appropriate.

3.1.3 On 26/12/21 a vehicle was reported stolen from an address in Gifford. The vehicle was subsequently recovered later in the same day, nearby. Enquires are ongoing.

**3.2** **East Lothian Council**

3.2.1 The councillors all referred to pressures that might arise from the forthcoming Budget. Councillor Akhtar drew attention to the views of COSLA (the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities), which thinks that the budget represents a £100m cut in revenue funding. The budget will not be passed until Feb/March, so hopefully the position might improve.

3.2.2 Schools and care homes are being hugely affected by Covid, with 120 (out of 520) janitorial staff absent.

3.2.3 The new vaccination centre at the Corn Exchange is up and running and mobile testing units are continuing to operate around East Lothian.

3.2.4 In relation to the current lack of an after-school club at Yester Primary School, Councillor Akhtar reported that all the service providers had been asked, but none had current capacity to deliver an after-school club at Yester. East Lothian Council does not supply after-school care directly, but works with a number of independent service providers. Councillor Akhtar will keep asking about this.

**3.3 Community Woodland**

Adam reported that the Community Woodland xmas decoration event had been a huge success, raising almost £500 for the Community Woodland.

**4 Internal Reports**

**4.1 Roads and Footpaths**

There are potholes in the usual places that appear in winter, mainly minor roads, eg the C97 after Yester farm to the bridge at the Y junction to Castle Park and Longyester, but not bad enough to report at present. No major potholes were reported in the community in the past month.

As in last month’s report, the stretch of road between Longyester and the quarry entrance is bad. The quarry has done some further patching-up of holes but the road needs to be resurfaced. According to ELC, that is the responsibility of the quarry company.  A stretch of the same road has been resurfaced between Longnewton and Longnewton farmhouse. The road was closed for 5 days before Christmas and it was planned to resurface more of the road as far as Dunbadan, but this did not happen. There is an area at West Latch that requires resurfacing, where there are potholes.  The action is to email Alan Stubbs to ask when is the soonest that the road can be repaired. **ACTION DG/AW**

There is still water on the road and in the field opposite Longnewton farmhouse. The road was closed in February last year due to flooding. Community Council has not heard if the problem that caused the flooding was found or fixed. The road could be flooded again with heavy rain and be closed at any time.

The collapsed manhole cover on the corner of Walden Terrace and Bablins Wynd has been replaced with a new one.

In relation to the footpath between Station Road and Tweeddale Cresent, Dave asked whether Road Services had a date penciled in to do any work.

A couple of pensioners who live on Park Crescent spoke to Dave about the left-side steps at Bablins junction to the grassed area on Park Crescent. The steps are not steep compared to the right-side steps so they are easier to go up and down for people with sticks or difficulty with walking and easier for kids’ pushchairs. The steps are in need of repair work. This has not yet been brought to Road services attention. **ACTION: DG**

**4.2 Lighting**

There is a problem once again with the street light at the bus stop on the opposite side of the street to the door into Goblin Ha hotel. The light gets fixed then a few days later it starts flashing, which might indicate a faulty connection somewhere.  The fault has been reported again. No other street light problems to report.

**4.3 Drainage**

No problems have been reported.

**4.4 Signs**

The Giveway sign on the road from Gifford Golf Club at the intersection onto the Edinburgh road, the B6355, is lying on the ground. It was reported in November after it was hit by a vehicle and was at a 45% angle. It was straightened up but the ground was not firmed up properly around the pole. This is a junction onto a main road. The road sign has been reported again with a photo to Road Services.

On the B6355, Duns Rd, the right-hand corner going up the hill after Duncanlaw farm, the warning sign ‘Bend’ has been hit by a vehicle coming down the hill. The sign is now lying on the ground. The landowner’s son informed Dave that 4 cars have ended up in the field over the past year. He wondered if more signs or a safety barrier should be erected.  Roads have been informed that the sign is on the ground.

**4.5** **Planning**

Please see attached report for planning applications within and outwith GCC Area. Richard highlighted two significant local developments:

4.5.121/01504/EOL - Replacement and in some cases rerouting of 11kV (wooden poles) power lines between Haddington, Gifford, and Morham. Hugh informed the meeting that there had been a consultation involving the relevant landowners.

4.5.2 21/01457/P - Erection of 28 holiday lodges, 1 reception/plant room/store building and associated works at Castlepark Golf Club. Gifford Community Council is a statutory consultee and has been asked to comment. Richard will collate a response on behalf of Community Council, so members should forward their comments to Richard. It was agreed that Community Council should also raise awareness of the application locally via its Facebook page and website. Residents’ comments should go directly to the council. **ACTION: AW, RA, WF, EH, DG, RB, JH**

**4.6 Finance**

Wendy confirmed that Community Council had made a charitable donation of £250 to the Lammermuir Larder. They were delighted to receive the money and confirmed that they were helping people in our local area. Wendy also informed the meeting that Community Council had donated £100 to a local family who were facing extreme poverty over the Christmas period. Everyone supported this donation. A small amount of money had been spent on materials for Christmas lanterns, which were to have been made as part of the Christmas Carol event. The materials will be held over and used for Christmas 2022.

**4.7 Website**

The website is currently up to date with minutes, etc. Suggestions for new content/improvements should be forwarded to Jill, who can discuss them with Liz. Details of Yester Estate’s Forestry Plan consultation have been added to the website (see 4.9 below).

**4.8 Covid Vaccination Update**

A report is attached as an appendix. Eleanor reported that there had been a slow down in booster vaccinations and the clinic was very quiet. Following a request from a member of the public, Community Council will post information about changes to vaccines rules on its Facebook page. This information will be taken from the NHS Inform website. **ACTION: JH**

**4.9 Yester Estate**

Yester Estate is gathering feedback on its Forestry Plan during January. Community Council has promoted the consultation on its Facebook page and website and will post further reminders during January. **ACTION: JH**

**4.10 Resilience Update**

Wendy reported that fish and chips will be delivered on the last Friday of January. She informed Council that as well as providing a friendly local service, it also provides an important opportunity for Community Council to check on the well-being of some of our more vulnerable residents.

**5. Correspondence**

5.1 Yester Dairies requested feedback on a proposal to install a fresh milk dispenser in the village. It would allow people access to local milk and bottles would be re-usable. It would need roughly a bus stop sized bit of ground and a power supply, and the machine would need to be stored in a lockable “Garden Shed” type structure. It will likely need planning, but at this stage they were looking for feedback on suitable locations. Council members expressed support for the eco-benefit of being able to re-use bottles. No-one had any specific suggestions for location, but it was generally thought that it would work best near to one of the existing businesses. Once Yester Dairies have progressed the idea further, Community Council will be happy to look at it again. **ACTION: JH**

5.2 A resident had asked for more information on vaccines to be published on the Community Council Facebook page. This was discussed at 4.8 above.

**6 AOB**

6.1 Textile Recycling bin at Bleachfield

Over Christmas, Dave had contacted the company (Nathan Waste Savers) as the bin was jammed, which leads people to leave donations on the road. When the bin is emptied, the drivers often will not take extra bags that are lying on the road. The bins get jammed when people shove in things that they are not meant to. Dave has arranged for the bin to be fully emptied and has arranged for the helpline sticker to be moved to a more prominent location. If anyone notices bags lying on the road, they can phone the helpline number.

6.2Speeding on Edinburgh Road. This was dealt with at 2.3 above.

**Date of next meeting -** 7:30pm on Monday 14th February 2022. Venue tbc as meeting may be held via ZOOM.

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 21/01600/P | Change of use of agricultural land to domestic use for the erection of 1 house for ancillary residential accommodation to Newlands Farmhouse and associated works | Newlands Farmhouse Yester Gifford East Lothian EH41 4PJ | 07/01/22 | Jan 2022 | New single storey, two bedroomed house adjacent to Newlands Farmhouse, for use by ageing family members. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01504/EOL | Erection of 11kv overhead line | East of Haddington To Gifford Area East Lothian | 14/12/21 | Jan 2022 | Replacement and in some cases rerouting of 11kV (wooden poles) power lines between Haddington, Gifford, and Morham.  See Note 2 below | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01457/P | Erection of 28 holiday lodges, 1 reception/plant room/store building and associated works | Castlepark Golf Club Gifford East Lothian EH41 4PL | 06/01/22 | Jan 2022 | Planning department request GCC comments. See Note 1 below. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01523/P | Replacement windows and doors. | Ardlea Haddington Road Gifford Haddington EH41 4JD | 06/12/21 | Dec 2021 | Replacement double glazed windows in white uPVC to south elevation and rear of house. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01313/P | Change of use of woodland to domestic garden ground, extensions to house, erection of wall, gate, building for residential ancillary accommodation, generator building and installation of air source heat pumps | Quarryford House Yester Gifford East Lothian EH41 4PL | 10/11/21 | Dec 2021 | Two storey extension and annexe on west face of Quarryford House. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01128/P | Erection of outbuilding for use as ancillary residential accommodation | Curlew Cottage Duns Road Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QW | 06/09/21 | Sept 2021 | Studio in garden behind Coop car park. Comprises living area, bedroom and wetroom shower/WC. Design statement refers to office and studio space for Curlew Cottage residents use – not to be sublet. | Approved, subject to restrictions on use as described in Design Statement |
| 21/01108/P | Change of use of woodland area for use as a nature kindergarten for nursery children, erection of log cabin, toilet, log store and associated works | Wester Wood Near Gifford East Lothian | 09/09/21 | Sept 2021 | Erection of 6.5m x 2.75m log cabin, compost toilet and log store in Wester Wood. Possible implications for right of access? | Awaiting decision |

**Note 1:** 21/01504/EOL - Replacement of Power Lines Haddington to Gifford

Plans can be viewed on ELC Planning portal:

<https://pa.eastlothian.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=R3DR77GN0BM00>

Detailed sheets cover the following parts of the route:

1 to 3 Haddington to Monkrigg

4, 5 Cockles to Renton Hall

6 to 10 Morham to Papple

11 Cockles Brae

12 Brounshill

13 Myreside to Duncanlaw

14 Duns Road

15 Townhead

16 Sheriffside

17 Danskine

18 Newlands

19 Baxtersyke / Quarryford

20, 21 Yester Mains

**Note 2:** 21/01457/P - Holiday Lodges at Castlepark

Plans can be viewed on ELC Planning portal:

<https://pa.eastlothian.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=R2REGXGNHXC00>

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 21/00563/P | Change of use of woodland area for the erection of domestic garage | Membland Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JH | 21/7/21 | Aug 2021 | Erection of a garage in woodland to the right of the driveway to Membland. Nov 2021 – proposed garage location changed to be south of house, further from the driveway, behind Membland Cottage | Approved |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

None

**Report for Monday 10th January 2022**

**From national statistics, source below, as of Wednesday 5th January 2022:**

[**https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard\_15960160643010/Overview**](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview)

**Nationally:**

Over 12s + all adults: Dose 1= 91.5 % (91.0% )

Over 18s: Dose 2 = 93.2% (88.6%)

Booster/Dose 3 over 18s plus all adults: 67.7% (45%)

**Lothian:**

Over 12s + all adults: Dose 1= 90.2% (89.7%)

Over 18s: Dose 2 = 87.2% (88.6%)

Over 18s: Boosters: 64.3% (38.2%)

**East Lothian: (**followed bydetailed breakdown)

Over 12s: Dose 1= 95.8% (95.5%)

Over 18s: Dose 2: =94% (93.5%)

*Over 18s Booster/Dose 3=74.1%* (no figures for December)

**East Lothian by Age group and Dose:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AGE** | **Dose 1 Jan** | **Dose 1: D** | **Dose 2 Jan** | **Dose 2 D** | **Boosters Jan** | **Booster Dec** |
| 12-15 | 75 | 71.8 | 18.2 | 2.0 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| 16-17 | 93 | 92.1 | 56.8 | 29.8 | **29.8** | 0.5 |
| 18-29 | 88 | 87.8 | 80.4 | 79.4 | **36.8** | 8.2 |
| 30-39 | 92 | 91.7 | 85.9 | 86 | **50.9** | 13.2 |
| 40-49 | 93.2 | 93 | 90.3 | 89.9 | **68.2** | 21.3 |
| 50-54 | 99.2 | 99.1 | 97.6 | 97.3 | **82.2** | 36.5 |
| 55-59 | 98.8 | 98.8 | 97.6 | 97.4 | **86** | 46.9 |
| 60-64 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | **97** | 79.1 |
| 65-69 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 98.7 | 92.9 |
| 70-74 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 99.9 | 99.9 | 92.8 |
| 75-79 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 99.9 | 96.5 |
| 80+ | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 97.0 | 94.3 |

**Additional information on NHS Inform website about Booster Vaccinations published 5th January:** <https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccinebooster>

Eleanor Hulme

(Dr Eleanor Kerr GMC: 2344618)